

**USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Regions (R5), Lake Tahoe
Basin Management Unit**

Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee

MEMBERSHIP BALANCE PLAN

1. Committee's Official Designation

Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee (Committee)

2. Authority

The Federal Interagency Partnership for Lake Tahoe was established by Executive Order 13057 on July 26, 1997 which directed the Federal departments and agencies having principal management or jurisdictional authorities in the Lake Tahoe Region to establish a Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Ecosystem to ensure that Federal agency actions are coordinated and operate to protect the extraordinary natural, recreational, and ecological resources in the Lake Tahoe Region and the economies that depend on them. The Committee was identified in the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, Public Law 106-505, and also in the revised agreement implementing the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, Public Law 105-263 to provide advice and recommendations to the Federal Interagency Partnership on implementing those Acts. The Committee is being established pursuant to Executive Order 13057 and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activities

The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and to the Federal Interagency Partnership (Partnership), on how the Partnership can best fulfill its duties pursuant to that order to protect the extraordinary natural, recreational, and ecological resources in the Lake Tahoe Region.

The advice of the Committee shall consist of the consensus of its members, representing the broad array of local, regional, state, tribal and national interests concerned with the environmental, economic, and cultural health of the Lake Tahoe Basin and its associated cultural and historic values.

4. Points of View Needed for the Committee

The Committee will be comprised of no more than 20 members approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. The Committee membership will be fairly balanced in terms of points of view represented and functions to be performed. Some members are appointed for 2-year terms, and some members are appointed for 3-year terms. Of these members, one will become the chairperson who is recognized for his or her ability to lead a group in a fair and focused manner and who has been briefed on the mission of the Committee.

Two members are members-at-large and each of the following sectors is represented by one member: 1) gaming, 2) environmental, 3) national environmental, 4) ski resorts, 5) North Shore economic/recreation, 6) South Shore economic/recreation, 7) resort associations, 8) education, 9) property right advocates, 10) science and research, 11) California local government, 12) Washoe Tribe, 13) State of California, 14) State of Nevada, 15) Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, 16) labor, 17) transportation, and 18) Nevada local government

Based on these criteria, Native Americans are ensured representation and a voice on the Committee and groups having particular fundamental interests in the Lake Tahoe Region are given an opportunity to be represented on the Committee. By providing advice and recommendations to the Partnership that reflect the diverse concerns and viewpoints of the members, the Committee is instrumental in implementing the terms of EO 13057, LTRA, SNPLMA, and Tahoe Regional Compact (Pub. L. No 96-551). Applicants were asked to identify which of the interests they wished to be considered for on the Federal Advisory Committee. The individual seat recommendations are discussed by the Federal Agencies (USDA Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Geological Survey, the Federal Highway Transportation Administration, US Army Corps of Engineers, and the US Environmental Protection Agency) whom are party to the Federal Interagency Partnership at Lake Tahoe. Each of the Agencies provides a representative to serve as part of the LTFAC applicant review process. Specific attention is paid during this review process to consider the need for balanced membership. Additionally, this review process also strongly considers the need to ensure representation from underserved groups.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the membership of this Committee is balanced, nevertheless, USDA recognizes that committee membership is not static and may change, depending on the work of the committee.

5. Other Balance Factors

Committee members represent specific sectors within the Lake Tahoe Region. Based on 2010 census data, there are approximately 55,000 people living in the Lake Tahoe region

with more than half residing in the South Lake Tahoe area. This is down 14% from the 2000 census which found about 63,000 residents. Compared to California or Nevada, the Lake Tahoe region residents are not as racially or ethnically diverse. According to the raw data from the 2010 census, the Lake Tahoe region is primarily Caucasian (75%). The next largest ethnic populations are Hispanic or Latino (20%) and Asian (3%).

There are factors that appear to adversely influence interest in this committee: (1) availability of individuals to commit to serving a 2 or 3 year term in a region with a fluctuating service-based tourism economy; (2) a limited permanent population that regionally competes for individuals to volunteer for many different community efforts; (3) the current unemployment rate, which may cause many potentially interested individuals to be more concerned with looking for employment rather than serving on a committee; and lastly; (4) high fuel costs.

Economic forces have a strong effect on the population of the Lake Tahoe region. Between 2000 and 2007, the region lost almost 2,000 jobs. According to the California Labor Market Information Division, the 2014 unemployment rate for South Lake was 9.6% compared to the overall California unemployment rate of 7.5%. Additionally, employment in the gaming industry, traditionally a major economic driver in the Lake Tahoe region, has declined since its peak in 1996. The region's housing has increasingly been converted to vacation rentals and secondary homes. From 2000 to 2010, the percentage of secondary residences used for recreation or seasonal use increased from 39 percent to 44 percent.

The reduction in the overall population and the shift from permanent residents to seasonal residents is assumed to affect the social sustainability of the Lake Tahoe region. Permanent residents are more likely to participate in community life through volunteering, fundraising and participation in committees such as the LTFAC.

Equal opportunity practices in accordance with USDA policies will be followed in all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership will include to the extent possible, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women and persons with disabilities.

The USDA prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

6. Quorum Requirements

A majority of the appointed members of the Committee must be present to constitute a quorum for an official meeting of the Committee. The appointed members will provide consensus direction. Attendance may be in-person, by telephone or other electronic means.

7. Candidate Identification Process

Those individuals, organizations, and groups affiliated with the categories listed above are encouraged to nominate individuals for membership on the Committee. This process seeks a diverse group of members representing a broad spectrum of persons interested in providing advice and making recommendations that should be taken by the agencies participating in the Partnership. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups in the Lake Tahoe region, membership shall include individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women and persons with disabilities. Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the Committee.

To provide a balance of continuity and fresh points of view, staggered membership terms are established, ½ members serving a 2 year term and ½ members serving a 3 year term.

From 2012 -2014 a substantial outreach effort was undertaken to ensure broad exposure to the Federal Advisory Committee. The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) sent letters, notices, and/or emails to over 2250 individuals and/or organizations in the Greater Lake Tahoe Region including Sacramento, CA and Carson City, Gardnerville, Sparks and Reno, NV areas describing the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee and soliciting nominations and applications for membership. Notices describing the purpose of the Committee and news releases were sent to 32 newspapers, television and radio stations including Spanish language media. Information on the Act and how to submit a nomination for membership on the Committee was also posted on the Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) Website a Section 508 compliant media. As part of the Agency's outreach efforts to Protected Groups, information was sent to the following underrepresented groups: Department of Rehabilitation in Sacramento; Society for the Blind; Tahoe Area Coordinating Council for the Disabled; Pacific Islanders Cultural Association; National Association of Social Workers- California Chapter; South Lake Tahoe Latino Affairs Commission; Tahoe Area Coordinating Council for the Disabled; South Lake Tahoe American Legion; USFS Region 5 Recruiters; and USFS Region 5 Equal Opportunity Managers. Several national underrepresented groups were contacted including Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences; National Hispanic Environmental Council; Women in Natural Resources; American

Indian Science & Engineering Society; and the National Institute of Health Black Scientists Association. Outreach notices were supplied to two community colleges and to three universities in California and Nevada. The three local school districts, representing 23 schools in the Lake Tahoe Basin were also supplied with the outreach notice. The Washoe County School District (Reno, NV), Squaw Valley Academy, and South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition were added to the outreach. The South Lake Tahoe, Lake Tahoe South Shore, and North Tahoe Chambers of Commerce received email outreach notices. Notices were also emailed to eight Lake Tahoe area casinos, 16 local/regional stakeholder groups, and 11 local ski resorts. In addition, recruiting notices were emailed to the 20 current Committee members and to all individuals who expressed an interest in serving on the Committee in the past. Outreach and recruitment was emailed to executives and leaders of over 40 federal, state, and local agencies operating in the Lake Tahoe Region (Tahoe Interagency Executives). Additional emails were sent to organizations that reflect the sector vacancies of the Charter. These organizations included: Lake Tahoe Gaming Alliance, California Ski Industry Association, City of South Lake Tahoe, South Lake Tahoe Lodging Association, Visitors & Convention Bureau, Nevada Department of Transportation, El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce, eight recreation residence associations, State of California, and the State of Nevada.

In order to reach additional diversity for sector vacancies, the Designated Federal Official (DFO) extended the outreach and application period. The extended outreach included additional phone calls and emails to specific constituents within the sector vacancies. The agency has continued contact with the Washoe Tribe with the intent of ensuring the Tribe's participation in the Committee.

Individual seat recommendations are discussed by the Federal Agencies whom are party to the Federal Interagency Partnership at Lake Tahoe. Specifically, the Lake Tahoe Basin Executive Committee (LTBEC) will review all applications and consider the each potential seat from the charter. The LTBEC is composed of Agency Representatives from the USDA Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Geological Survey, the Federal Highway Transportation Administration, US Army Corps of Engineers, and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Once candidates have been identified, their names and background data are submitted to the USDA White House Liaison's office for vetting. The vetting process includes a background check to determine if any of the candidates have a conflict of interest that would prohibit them from serving on the committee due to criminal or ethical violations.

8. Subcommittee Balance

The Committee has no subcommittees at this time. If a subcommittee is needed, the process for selecting subcommittee members would be followed as for appointment of Committee members. The membership balance plan will be the same as it is for the regular committee.

9. Other

N/A

10. Date Prepared or Updated

April 29, 2015